The Hampden Hippocrat

OCTOBER 1969

HAMPDEN DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY

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A bulletin for
The Hampden District of
The Massachusetts
Medical Society

Founded in 1942 by Edward P. Bagg, Jr., M.D. and William A. R. Chapin, M.D.

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THE HAMPDEN HIPPOCRAT is published monthly except for July and August.

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To be assured of uninterrupted delivery of **The Hampden Hippocrat**, notify us in advance of an address change and include your ZIP CODE number.

HER WORKS – HER PRAISES

"Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.
Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,
and let her works tell her praises at the city gates."
Proverbs 31

Time after time the activities of our girls have pointed up the fact that their Auxiliaries have the ability, drive, and talent to successfully carry out worthy projects. Some of us may feel that socially oriented activities with an occasional superficial dab in community affairs is more than enough. The children and the home must come first and almost exclusively. After all, as James B. McClinton once said: "Doctor's children have 50% more chances of being failures than others of their kind because there is only one to teach them. She must take them hurriedly to the toilet, slowly to Sunday School, and proudly to the graduation all alone. The doctor is often busy." Socially, many of us expect no more than that our little woman commendably communicate our image by being discreet, gracious, unostentatious, and somewhat demurring insofar as community activities are concerned.

As we look at the activities of our Auxiliaries, we find that they are no more than the extension of the home and image thing. Our marital counterparts are doing a wonderful job insofar as health careers, health education, and fund raising for health careers is concerned. Moreover, the image of the lord and master is hopefully being abetted. This is certainly to be highly commended, but today's society and youth are demanding more.

Can it be true that we—men—can't handle our kids nor think of anything to say to our wives? Are our young people no worse than we were or are they only different because the world has changed so much? Have we disadvantaged our youth with too many advantages? Is ours a money oriented culture where we know the price of everything and the value of nothing? Does today's culture lack motivation? Is the current ferment trying to tell us something we should listen to?

Education learned long ago the hard way that facts do not change attitudes. It is principles, concepts, and attitudes themselves that are the key. We physicians, as well as all associated with us, must begin to examine attitudes—our own as well as those of our patients, our families, our youth, and all the people. We can best begin by *communicating*. However, we must remember that communication is a *two way street;* otherwise, we can end up merely talking to ourselves. With good communication, constructive action might ensue.

One of our ablest and most effective allies could be our other half working in and through her Auxiliary in imaginative programs. However, we must first recognize and acknowledge her by communicating with her not only in the home but also in her Auxiliary. This means bringing her more into our Society.

Why can't Auxiliary members be invited to participate in some of our committees' deliberations and activities? In what better way could we communicate with our Auxiliary's members and thereby widen their vistas. As a dividend, we might be surprised how they might widen our own vistas. If an Auxiliary is to aid and support, then its members must be kept informed so that mutually beneficial actions can be devised and implemented.

Our women are wise! Let's give them a greater piece of the action! Their works will tell their praises!

Ayres

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A MESSAGE

from

MRS. SAWYER E. MEDBURY

PRESIDENT, WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

to the

HAMPDEN DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY

The sad social state of affairs in our beloved country is, perhaps, the greatest concern of all of us at the present time. My feeling is that we could make great strides toward recovery by starting at the very base of our society. If each of us could put his own house in order by using more self-discipline and parental discipline, the problems of immorality, student unrest, drug usage, racial unrest, and disrespect for the law could be conquered.

Granted, the increment of the younger generation involved is small, but image of all is suffering. Those who are instigating the campus unrest seem to me to have had everything handed to them and seem to have too much time as well as money on their hands. They have had to look far afield to find something to gripe about. This is in drastic contrast to the conditions under which the middle generation matured. They had to work hard for everything they attained, and they knew the value of money. Many worked their way through college only to find jobs scarce upon graduation. They willingly went to work to preserve for this generation the freedoms which they do not appreciate.

These parents and our affluent society are mostly at fault. Not wanting their children to have such a difficult time, they gave them everything—cars, education, money and too much leisure time. The younger generation doesn't seem to appreciate or realize that our forefathers gave their lives to attain all the rights and privileges that we enjoy. Such things should be cherished and not abused. I hope and pray the pendulum will soon begin its upward swing.

Mrs. Sawyer E. Medbury

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to the

Hampden District Medical Society

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of its members and guests

at the

Annual White Cap Scholarship Ball

on Saturday, the first of November

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at seven o'clock

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A MESSAGE TO HAMPDEN

by

MRS. CLINTON H. BAGENSTOSE
PRESIDENT, WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

to the

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY

To be of service to *youth and children* is the *call* from the National Auxiliary. In a society where over fifty per cent of the population is now 25 years or less in age, it behooves all of us to *stop, look,* and *listen* to our youngsters and young adults.

In answer to the call, the wives of Massachusetts' physicians are putting their major efforts into three major Community Service Projects:

(1) A Health Careers Recruitment Fair, "HORIZONS UNLIMITED," held on October 7, 8, 9, and 10, 1969, at Horticultural Hall in Boston. Schools in the eastern part of Massachusetts (public, private, and parochial) were requested to bring Junior High and Senior High students to an exhibition of 56 booths depicting Allied Health Careers. This meaningful opportunity gave the young students the privilege of seeing many fields of health care in action and the rare experience of discussing training in these future job opportunities with professional staffs.

(2) The Massachusetts Medical Society and the Woman's Auxiliary to the Massachusetts Medical Society are proud to announce the presentation of a "HEALTH CAREERS RECRUITMENT MOBILE UNIT" at the fair. Designed specifically to carry to students of Massachusetts professionally prepared educational materials to guide them in the choice of future health careers, the movable library will tour our state. The unit is equipped with audio and visual aid materials and is a self-contained, power-controlled unit that can easily be handled by anyone licensed to drive an automobile.

(3) The Auxiliary office at 22 The Fenway offers another service to the Massachusetts communities; namely, a film lending library. Films about venereal diseases, drug usage, alcohol, tobacco, sex education, and health careers recruitment may be borrowed on request for programming by schools, churches, and public service organizations. We do require that an Auxiliary member or a medical doctor be present at a showing of one of our films.

These projects are sponsored and financially supported by the Massachusetts Medical Society and its District Medical Societies.

We, the members of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Massachusetts Medical Societies, pledge our support to carry on the work of the Medical Societies by promoting the education of future students in medicine and its allied fields, to aid in filling the critical manpower shortage in all health facilities, and to give our youth the promise of a future with "HORIZONS UNLIMITED."

Claire E. Bagenstose

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE '68 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE WAHDMS

by
DOROTHY MOZDEN
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

There are 323 members, including 10 new members and 8 resignations. There were 7 Board meetings held and 2 Newsletters sent to keep the membership informed of programs and activities.

The Tour of Historical Homes on Tuesday, October 8, 1968 netted $1127.00 to further the efforts of the A.M.A.-E.R.F. Hampden was featured in the national magazine "M.D.'s Wife."

The girls helped with the annual October sale of the blind and co-sponsored an illustrated lecture by Dr. Richard H. Overholt with films being shown to Junior and Senior high school students on the dangers and hazards of smoking.

The annual *White Cap Ball* was a success with a profit of $1,694.88 to aid qualified applicants for scholarship aid.

March brought a joint meeting with HDMS members when the guest speaker was Rev. Dr. Paul B. McCleave, Director of Medicine & Religion from the AMA, whose topic was "What Now-Drug Abuse."

When a plea for help came from the Springfield Academy of Medicine for help in cataloguing 6,000 library volumes, several members volunteered and worked once a week to help with this tremendous assignment. Help is still needed with this cataloguing.

Some members who were nurses volunteered to help the Red Cross train new people in their programming.

The Legislation Committee informed us of the complex world of legislation. More attention by the members should be given to legislation concerning the physicians.

The Health Careers Committee took 4 high school students to Boston to visit nursing schools.

A total of $1,260.00 was contributed to the AMA-ERF.

Pharmaceuticals were collected, packed and mailed to the American Korean Foundation. Project Concern received knit leper bandages, 47 pounds of soap, and rolled bandages.

It is impossible to frost the cake without thinking in glowing terms of *Health Fair '69* held in West Springfield late in March. A Health Careers booth prompted many interested visitors to the *Health Fair* to stop, inquire, and take pamphlets.

March 30, the closing date of the *Fair* coincided with Doctor's Day, hence, the Woman's Auxiliary took this opportunity to honor our 50th Anniversary physicians in a special way. An AMA-ERF donation and a spiritual bouquet were presented to 3 physicians who had earned this honor.

Such other important projects were carried out such as a prize for the best essay at Trade High School on the hazards of smoking, films provided for junior and senior high schools on drugs and smoking, and help to the Cancer Society for their cancer detection clinic.

As your President, I represented you at all state meetings. The state meetings have been outstanding and worthwhile. I felt it a privilege to attend and to have served. My thanks to all members of our Auxiliary and I have enjoyed being your president.

NEXT MEETING

OF THE

HAMPDEN DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY

ME: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1969
Social Hour at 6:30 P.M.
*Dinner at 7:30 P.M.

PLACE: HIGHPOINT MOTOR INN
Chicopee, Mass.

SPEAKER: GERALD D. DORMAN, M.D.
President, American Medical Association

INVITED: PHYSICIANS AND THEIR WIVES
from Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin,
and Berkshire District Societies.
(Dinner charge of $5.00 for non-members of HDMS and wives—Checks must be in HDMS office by Friday, November 21, 1969.)

Bruce B. Stoler MD

BRUCE B. STOLER, M.D., *Secretary*

*If you must cancel your dinner reservations, please call the HDMS office before noon on November 25, 1969.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY
to the
Hampden District Medical Society
1969 - 1970
PROGRAM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1969
Crestview Country Club
Agawam, Mass.
Social Hour: 12:00
Luncheon: 1:00
Program: Round About Theatre
Program Chairman:
Mrs. H. Bernard Tillman
Chairman: Mrs. William Yorzyk
Co-Chairman: Mrs. Louis DeRose

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1969
DINNER DANCE
WHITE CAP BALL
Chez Josef's
Agawam, Mass.
General Chairman:
Mrs. Robert O'Brien
Co-Chairman: Mrs. Victor Panitch
Social Hour: 7:00 P.M.

JANUARY, 1970
New Member Coffee Hours
Dates to be set.

FEBRUARY, 1970
Date and Place to be announced.
Program: Violence on TV

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 1970
12:00 Noon
ANNUAL LUNCHEON MEETING
Vincent's Hillhouse
West Springfield, Mass.
Guest Speaker and Installing Officer:
Mrs. Clinton H. Bagentose,
State Auxiliary President
Program: Kitty Broman
Program Chairman:
Mrs. H. Bernard Tillman
Luncheon Chairman:
Mrs. Jacob Shammash
Co-Chairman: Mrs. Samuel Antiles

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Historian . . Mrs. Charles D'Avanzo
International Health
Mrs. Augusto Asinas
Legislation . . . . Mrs. Robert A. Sears
Mental Health
Mrs. William W. Walthall, Jr.
Necrology . . Mrs. Emanuel Wiedman
Nominating . . Mrs. Leonard Plotkin
Parliamentarian
Mrs. Eugene W. Beauchamp, Jr.
Program . . . . . Mrs. Bernard Tillman
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Mrs. Robert O'Brien
Mrs. Victor Panitch, Co-Chairman

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- **1960** — Higher weekly benefits.
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W.A.H.D.M.S. SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Springfield Hospital Nursing Students, L. to R.: Julie Gentes, Virginia Massey, and Sherryl Stalker.

Holyoke Hospital Nursing Students, L. to R.: Mrs. Robert J. O'Brien, *White Cap Ball* Chairman, handing scholarship check to (seated) Linda Renaud, Annemarie Shaer, (standing) Diane Andrewes, Phyllis Graham, and Joan Chojnowski.

Mercy Hospital Nursing Students, L. to R.: (seated) Kieren Okolita, (standing) Gloria Garatti, Laura Hurley, Christine Stokowski, Ann Deady, and Mary Anne Conway.

From the proceeds derived from its annual "White Cap Ball" last November, the Woman's Auxiliary to the HDMS recently awarded 22 scholarships amounting to a total of $2,200 to women residing in the Hampden District and desirous of entering into or continuing their education in nursing or allied medical fields.

Below are listed the recipients and the schools they are attending:

Holyoke Hospital — Nursing

Diane Andrewes, Joan Chojnowski, Phyllis Graham, Donna Pomeroy, Linda Renaud, Annemarie Shaer.

Mercy Hospital — Nursing

Mary Anne Conway, Ann Deady, Gloria Garatti, Laura M. Hurley, Kieren Okolita, Christine Stokowski.

Mercy Hospital — Radiological Technology

Eleanor James.

Springfield Hospital — Nursing

Julie Gentes, Virginia Massey, Karen Murphy, Deborah Rigali, Sherryl Stalker.

Springfield Technical Community College

Michele Casey.

University of Massachusetts

Mary Ferrari, Joyce Balboni, Barbara Lak.

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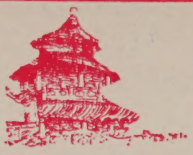

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IN MEMORIAM

EDWIN M. MAHONEY, M.D.

1906 - 1969

Dr. Edwin M. Mahoney of 66 North Pleasant St., Holyoke, died at the Providence Hospital on September 25, 1969.

Born in Holyoke, Mass., on November 18, 1906, Dr. Mahoney attended local schools and went on to Phillips Exeter Academy and Westminster School before entering Harvard University, from which he graduated in 1929. After receiving his doctorate in medicine from Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1933 and interning at the Bellevue Hospital in New York City, Dr. Mahoney returned in 1936 to his native Holyoke, where he engaged in the private practice of general surgery until his demise.

Dr. Mahoney served on the medical staffs of both the Holyoke Hospital and the Providence Hospital for many years. He was a member of the AMA, the MMS, and the HDMS. During World War II, he served in the Medical Corps. of the U. S. Navy.

To his family, his friends, and associates, deepest sympathy is hereby extended.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

HDMS MEETING, NOVEMBER 25

HDMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS, NOVEMBER 18, and DECEMBER 16

MMS COUNCIL MEETING, BOSTON, FEBRUARY 11, 1970

CONFERENCE ON RESPIRATORY THERAPY, BOSTON, NOVEMBER 9-12

AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION, PHILADELPHIA, NOVEMBER 10-14

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC PHYSICIANS, DENVER, NOVEMBER 28-30

AMA CLINICAL MEETING, DENVER, NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 3

ONE MAN'S OPINION . . . . . .
ON THE NATURE OF OUR ASSEMBLIES

At our Annual Meeting of April 22, 1969, Dr. Charles D'Avanzo (Springfield), suggested a change in the format of our meetings. His suggestion seems well deserving of exploration. Briefly, Dr. D'Avanzo opined that more meeting time be devoted to a consideration of the many grave and serious problems confronting our profession today.

OUR MEETINGS, HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

It is interesting to note that for more than a century the meetings of Hampden District were devoted exclusively to clinical and scientific matters. Incredible as it may sound the subject matter of a meeting held as recently as 20 years ago (March, 1949), was "Convulsive Disorders." Since then, however, our Society meetings have dealt exclusively with ethical and medico-socio-economic problems. This policy has remained with us to the present time, with one notable variation. Whereas, during the first decade or so we employed what might be termed the "open forum" type of assembly; more recently, however, we have utilized largely the "guest speaker" variety of meeting. Thus, a typical meeting of late would consist of a short business meeting followed by a social hour, dinner, and finally by a guest speaker of note.

Meetings of this type offer many advantages, the most important of

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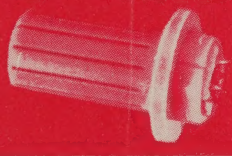

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which is that they enable us to receive first hand information about the activities of our parent organizations. Our speakers, without exception, have been men of prominence and distinction, including presidents and other high echelon officers of the AMA and the MMS. Their messages have always been informative, authoritative and at times even inspiring. On occasion a question or two would reach the podium from the floor.

One serious drawback to the "guest speaker" type of meeting is that it affords little opportunity for free and open discussion. This is especially true when compared with the "open-forum" meeting of the type employed in the 1952-1962 decade. Our meetings then were truly a picture of democracy in action. They had their rough spots, to be sure, but attendance was good, and participation was widespread and spirited. Most of all the results were fruitful. It is safe to state that our Society in no other decade accomplished as much as it did in the 1952-1962 era. The report of the Special Study Committee alone was debated at several meetings. This report, it should be recalled, had far-reaching effects and lead to the creation of several important committees. Our activities gained state-wide attention, so much so that in 1957 the *Massachusetts Physician* was moved to comment:

> "We doff our hats to Hampden District. Its contructive approach to problems affecting its members deserves emulation by all the District Societies in Massachusetts."

Q.E.D.

After 20 years of experience with the above two types of meetings, some conclusions seem pertinent. To abandon the "guest-speaker" meetings entirely would be sheer folly. They do offer, as indicated earlier, many splendid advantages. As a steady diet, however, they leave much to be desired. What is needed most are the meetings that will somehow provide our membership with an opportunity to express themselves freely; to discuss current problems thoroughly; to act on committee reports intelligently; and to participate in all other important Society affairs and decisions. This might well be accomplished by devoting at least 50% of our meetings to the "open forum" variety. This may not be exactly what Dr. D'Avanzo had in mind, but his remarks at the last Annual Meeting should nevertheless receive serious consideration by all of us and especially by the members of the Executive Committee, who carry the burden, brunt and responsibility of formulating our agendas.

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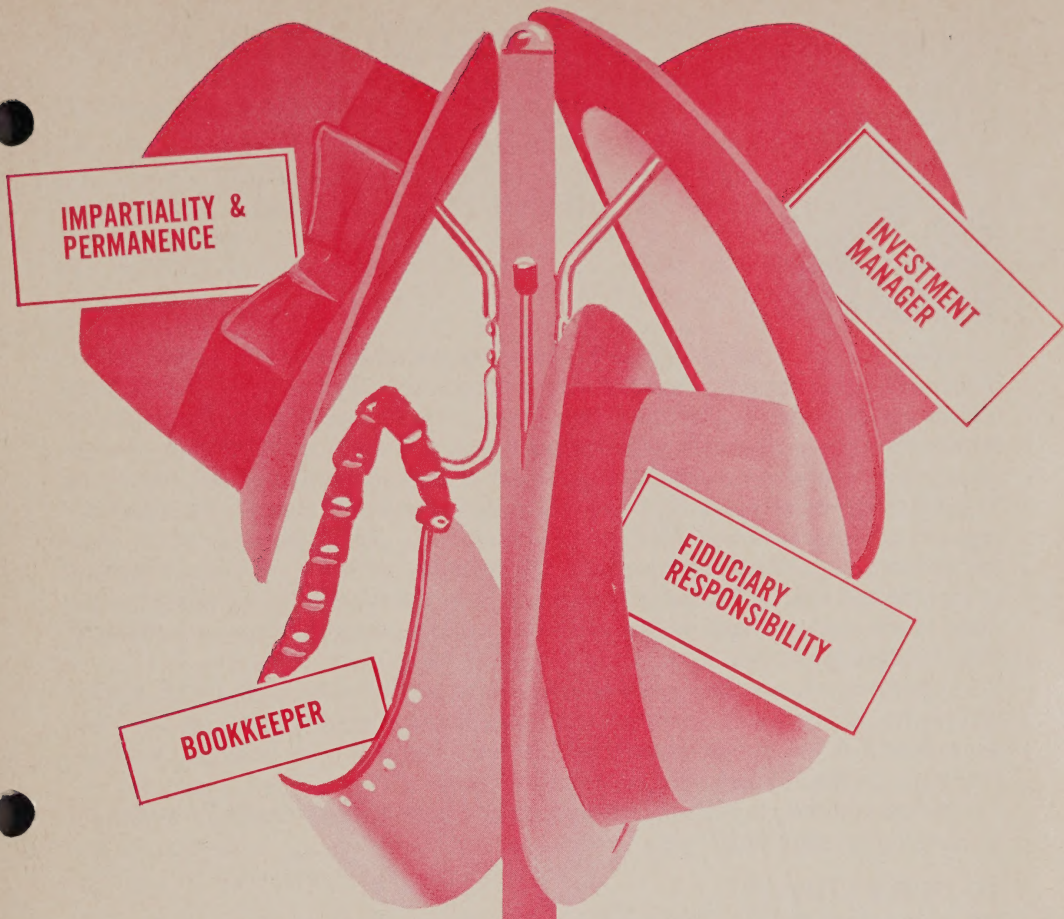

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

A PHYSICIAN'S LOYALTY

That we are living in a time of changing patterns is obvious to us all. As physicians we are acutely aware of man's constant need to adapt to the shifting and changing patterns about us. One has but to glance through the pages of history to observe that man is a restless being, constantly experiencing change in such areas as dress, surroundings, moral behaviour, and religious practices. The conservatism of yesterday has become the liberality of today. The conservatism of yesterday was preceded by the freedom of expression and behavior of the Renaissance. The sexual immoderacy of today with it's associated interest in the pill and the I U D had it's counterpart in the immorality of Hippocrates' time. Have you ever read about the many various abortifacients prescribed in Hippocrates' day?

Man may change his mode of dress, and his behavior may be of a tidal nature; but man himself, his inner self, does not change. His need for love, his dependence on his fellow man, and his recognition of the value of honesty, integrity, and loyalty have always been with him.

What is loyalty as we apply it to our daily lives as physicians? To whom do we owe our primary loyalty?

TO OUR PATIENTS

Over 2000 years ago Hippocrates counseled us to be loyal to our patients. For over 2000 years physicians have remained loyal to their patients, with rare exceptions. Our education and preparation for medicine taught us the value of loyalty. In recent years this sense of loyalty has been challenged. It has been challenged by the development of third party interests, by social planners, by changing patterns within hospitals, by a national increased interest in materialism, and by false beliefs amongst our own colleagues.

A doctor-patient relationship is a trust. The patient has traditionally trusted his doctor and expected he would be loyal to his patient, especially since this relationship is entered into voluntarily by both sides. In recent years this posi-

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tion has been weakened. The patient is not so certain of our loyalty. He has doubts, and he has become confused.

TO OUR INSTITUTIONS

We have a responsibility to the hospitals with which we associate. A doctor who remains loyal to his patients will be loyal also to his hospitals, whether he be associated with one or two or three hospitals. The occasionally expressed belief that a doctor cannot be loyal to two hospitals is false. Loyalty is not a practice unidirectional any more than marriage to a person guarantees loyalty to that person alone and to the exclusion of the rest of the family. If a man will be loyal to one hospital, he will very likely be loyal to all.

In recent years we have abrogated a trust placed with us by our patients. We have gradually decreased our interest in the actual management of hospitals. This is not to imply that our administrators are not efficient or not motivated in their positions. Far from it! The administrator of today is a highly trained and experienced hospital manager. He too is dedicated to his profession. But yet, can it be that the physician, whose concern has always been the welfare of his patient, has nothing practical to offer towards the cost-of-care factor within the hospital? Could it be that the patient believes the physician is at least partly responsible for the steadily rising cost of hospital care? Why are administrators or trustees so reticent and, perhaps, even opposed to having practicing physicians on their boards of trustees? Wouldn't the hospital and the patient benefit from having at least two or even three elected members from the medical staff serve on the management side? Does a business man who deals in shoes or potato chips know more about the needs of medical care than physicians do?

Decisions being considered at a recently completed special meeting in Washington make it crystal clear that hospital management and medical staffs should stop their increasing dichotomy and prepare themselves to face with unity the rapidly approaching common foe.

Walter S. Mozden, M.D.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEPTEMBER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The HDMS Executive Committee met on September 16, 1969. President Mozden called the meeting to order at 8:05 P.M.

Present were: Drs. Mozden, Stoler, Collard, S. Goldberg, Cummings, Barnes, Moore, Anton, Hough, J. Kelly and Mrs. Purdy.

It was voted that the reading of the minutes of the June Executive meeting be dispensed with because of the large agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

An informational letter from the CVHPC, Inc., was read informing the Committee that Dr. Omar Pace has been appointed to its Board of Directors with Dr. Collard as an alternate.

Another letter from CVHPC, Inc. was read requesting information on the results of the HDMS physician survey on the future of the Western Massachusetts Hospital along with another letter from Mr. Powers of the Department of Public Health, requesting similar information. It was voted that a summary of data will be made available to each organization involved when same is completed and requested specifically.

Mr. Tremblay, a recipient of the HDMS Scholarship Award for three years, wrote a thank you letter to the Society.

A letter from Dr. Sullivan urging HDMS to take a firmer stand on fluoridation was read. It is to be referred to the Public Health Committee with a request for urgent action.

Mayor Freedman wrote thanking Dr. Mozden for his urgent letter to physicians on behalf of the Springfield Municipal Hospital. Some physicians responded to the plea but shied away on hearing of the pay scale.

Mr. Hayes of the United Fund wrote asking if Mr. Faubert could attend the Society's next meeting to comment about the 1969 United Fund Drive. It was decided to ask a physician to do this, but a letter from Mr. Hayes could be enclosed in the next *Newsletter*.

American International College is sponsoring a workshop for Community News Service and asked for people to participate. Dr. Barnes' name will be sent in as an interested person.

The Parkinson Disease Foundation is looking for a person to be Honorary Chairman locally of its drive. Dr. Whitney's name was suggested, and he will be contacted.

The Greater Springfield Pediatric Association sent a letter with several grievances listed regarding the Medicaid Program. It was suggested that a meeting should be held with representatives from State Welfare Department, the Pediatric Association, Dr. Beachman, Dr. Roberts, and Dr. Sheldon Goldberg in the Society's office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Blood Bank Committee gave a report. The new State ruling is that a physician has to be available but not present at blood mobiles. The Committee recommended that the Emergency Medical Service physician be used as stand-by coverage. This was voted down by the Executive Committee. It was suggested that each hospital set up its own roster on a rotating basis.

Dr. Harold Williams, Chairman of the Emergency Medical Service, reporting for this committee advised that the roster be kept for another year. After considerable discussion a motion was made and carried to recommend modi-

fying the Emergency Medical Service with consideration being given to the maintenance of a "yellow page" advertisement for guidance and information. An arrangement should be made with the answering service to act as an information center.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Ayres, Executive Councilor, gave a report on the MMS Executive Committee meeting of Sept. 10th. He spoke regarding the apparent resistance of physicians to the Welfare Department vendor forms. He also gave a report on the legislation for paying chiropractors through Blue Shield.

It was voted to invite the wives to attend the November 25th Society's meeting when Dr. Dorman, President of the AMA will be the guest speaker.

A peer review report was postponed, but copies of Report F of the AMA House of Delegates on peer review was passed out to all members of the Committee.

Dr. Hough was appointed to take Dr. Kendrew's place on the Citizens Action Committee on Drug Abuse.

The new vendor forms from the Public Welfare Department were discussed. Dr. Mozden reported making several telephone calls concerning these and has written a letter (which was approved by the Committee) to Mr. Ott, the Commissioner. It was suggested by the MMS that letters be sent to Dr. Beachman, our representative to the Committee on Tax Supported Medical Care.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 P.M.

The Grievance Committee met and heard several cases and adjourned at 11:30 P.M.

Ernest A. Byron

* * * * * *

SPRINGFIELD

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE SPRINGFIELD ACADEMY OF MEDICINE will be held on Monday, November 10, 1969, at 8:30 P.M.

SPEAKER: James M. Moss, M.D.
Clinical Professor of Medicine
Georgetown University School of Medicine

TOPIC: "Recent Advances in Diabetes"

CLINIC: Providence Hospital, 5:00 P.M.

HDMS SEPTEMBER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The September meeting of the HDMS was held at the Shaker Farms, Westfield, on the twenty-third with President Mozden calling the meeting to order at 6:25 P.M. Attendance: 158, including 23 without reservations; 160 made reservations but 25 of these failed to attend and cancel their reservations.

The minutes of the annual meeting of April 22nd were accepted as read.

Under old business Dr. Ernst's resolution pertaining to physician-patient relationships in nursing homes was considered. Dr. Ernst proposed that (1) the frequency of visits to patients in nursing homes should be determined by the attending physician on the basis of need rather than on a mandatory periodic 30 day basis as prescribed by the Mass. Dept. of Public Health, (2) that such mandatory visits only add to taxpayers' burdens under the Medicare and Medicaid programs without contributing necessarily to patients' welfare, (3) that the signing of attending physician's orders as given by telephone within 24 hours is impractical, and that the disqualification of reputable nursing homes on the basis of inability of the latter to carry out such "untenable and unnecessary regulations" is unfair. Hence, representatives of the MMS and the Mass. Dept. of Public Health should get together to draw up realistic regulations for nursing homes which are "compatible with actual practice" and which would "continue to upgrade nursing home care in Mass." After considerable discussion and revelation that Dr. Ernst's proposals might be in conflict with requirements for nursing home accreditation under the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, action on the matter was tabled and referred back to committee.

Dr. Mozden then reported on the Emergency Medical Service Committee's report to the Executive Committee. The former committee's study revealed that the call load in Springfield and Holyoke was very light with 50% being referred back to their own physicians, a small number to hospital emergency rooms, and the remaining few being legitimate insofar as physicians on call were concerned. In light of the above, the Emergency Medical Service Committee recommended that the service be continued for another

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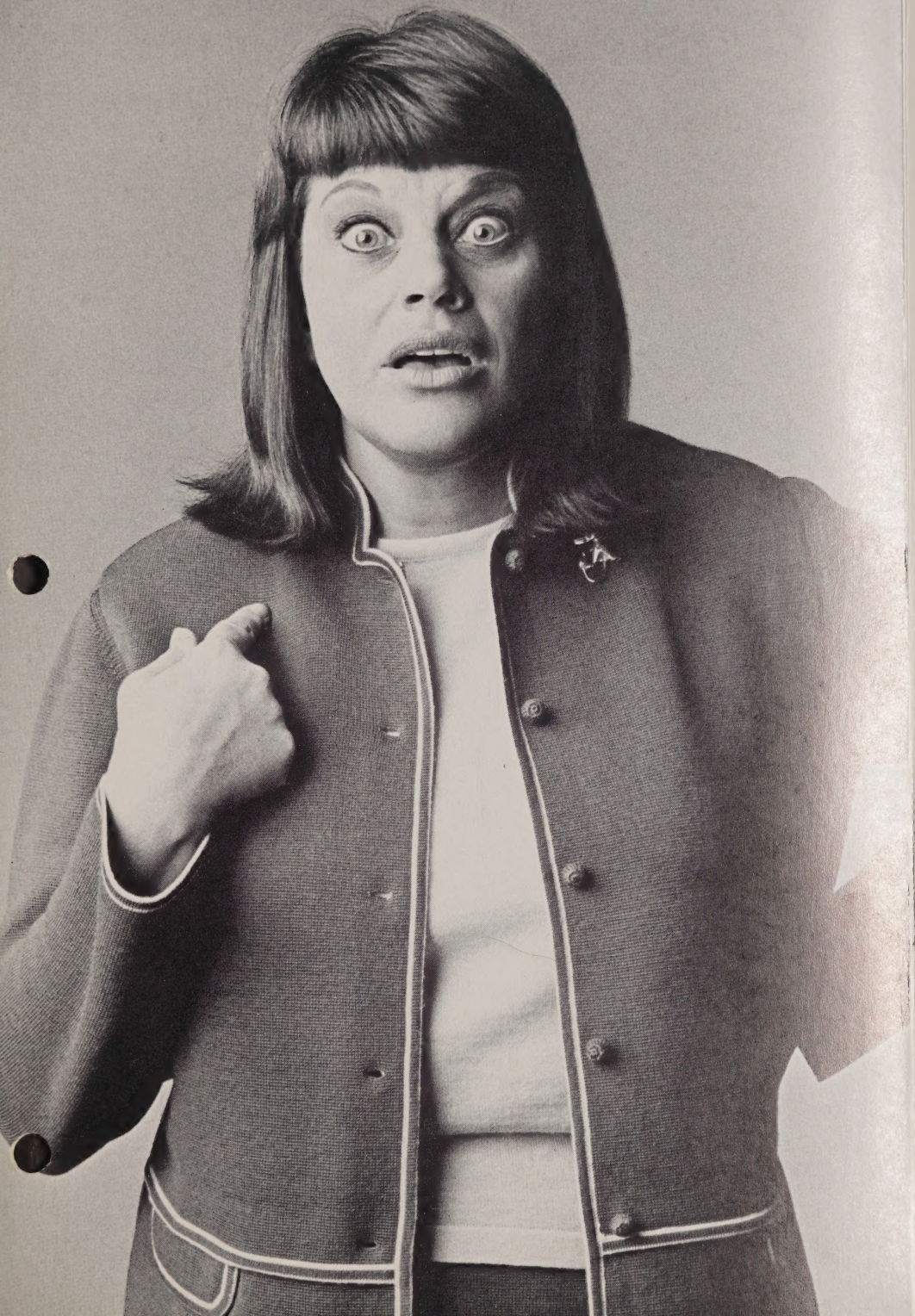

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year and that individual physicians take more care in keeping their patients informed as to covering physicians in the instance of their unavailability. The Executive Committee's deliberations and recommendations in this matter were that since emergency care was readily available in almost all of the hospitals' emergency rooms which are staffed continuously by full-time physicians and since emergency ambulance service was readily available, then the Emergency Medical Service should be modified. Discussions further brought out that little could be done in the case of a *true* emergency in the home or the field by a physician and that hospital resources would most likely be necessary in any case. Hence, expeditious transport to a hospital emergency room would be more prudent. Thereupon, the membership voted to modify the Emergency Medical Service program.

The Blood Bank Committee's proposal that physicians on call with the Emergency Medical Service program also provide stand-by coverage for the blood mobile unit in the greater Springfield area was tabled with the recommendation that hospital medical staffs should make arrangements for such appropriate coverage.

Under new business, Dr. Memery, Chairman of the Bylaws Committee, moved that the proposed bylaw change requiring Senior Fellows to pay usual HDMS annual dues be returned to his committee for further consideration. This motion was approved.

The Nominating Committee's recommendation that Dr. H. H. Shuman, by virtue of being chairman of the MMS's Standing Committee on Public Health and Problems Relating to Individual Disease and in accordance with MMS and HDMS bylaws, be elected as a Councilor to the MMS, was carried in the affirmative.

Dr. James D. Allan then presented the following three resolutions:

(1) "It is the position of the medical profession that chiropractic is an unscientific cult whose practitioners lack the necessary training and background to diagnose and treat human disease. Chiropractic constitutes a hazard to rational health care in the United States because of the substandard and unscientific education of its practitioners and their rigid adherence to an unscientific approach to disease causation."

(Editor Note:-This resolution was adopted verbatim by the HDMS at its regular meeting of September 24, 1968.)

(2) "That the General Laws of 1941 which created Blue Shield be amended so that a patient who received the services of a non-participating physician who resides or practices in the Commonwealth, shall receive remuneration equivalent to that which

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he would have received indirectly to a Participating Physician."

(3) "That the General Laws of 1941 which created Blue Shield be amended so that the effective date of resignation for a Participating Physician be reduced to three months from the present twelve-month requirement."

Inasmuch as these were items of new business, they were referred in accordance with the Society's bylaws to the Executive Committee for consideration and report.

At this point the meeting was recessed from 7:10 P.M. until 8:50 P.M. for a social hour and collation. Thereupon, Dr. Mozden made a few announcements and presented certificates of membership to new members.

Certificates of appreciation were also presented to those who made the *Health Fair '69* such a success.

At the conclusion of these presentations, there was a showing of slides depicting various activities at the *Health Fair '69*.

Then came the climactic point of the meeting when the latest developments in the Mass. Medicaid program came up for discussion. Background information was presented by Dr. Walter S. Mozden, President of HDMS, Dr. H. H. Shuman, President of the Greater Springfield Pediatric Association, and Dr. Richey L. Waugh, Jr., President of the Mass. Ophthalmological Society. Briefly the storm centered on two aspects: the vendor payment forms as required by the Mass. Dept. of Public Welfare beginning Oct. 1, 1969, and the "rate freeze" statute as enacted by the General Court on August 24, 1969, under federal directive and effected by the Mass. Rate Setting Commission.

In the matter of the vendor payment forms, the complaints indicated that these forms were too complicated, too unreasonably demanding of information, too time consuming, and too impractical for ordinary physician office bookkeeping and billing procedures. In the matter of the "rate freeze" there was great consternation over the fee schedule which is destined to persist until June 30, 1970. Fruitless negotiations by the MMS with various officials of the Commonwealth ever since the inception of the Mass. Medicaid program have led to a persistent status quo wherein Mass. physicians have received and will continue to receive reimbursement under a grossly inadequate and unreasonable fee schedule based on a 1952 "Plan B" Blue Shield schedule with some minor changes.

Sentiments by individual physicians seemed to indicate nonparticipation or limited participation in the Mass. Medicaid program.

Dr. Mozden pointed out that the Executive Committee has already sent a letter of protest to the Mass. Commissioner of Public Welfare, that there are ongoing strategy conversations between the HDMS and MMS officers, and that there are ongoing strategy conversations with local medical specialty, dental, and pharmacist groups. A plea was issued for letters to be written to Dr. William Beachman, HDMS's representative to the MMS's Committee on Tax Supported Medical Care, which is scheduled to meet with representatives of the Mass. Dept. of Public Welfare on October 1. It was and is obvious that the leadership of HDMS and MMS are greatly concerned over these matters and intend to take vigorous but prudent action in regard thereto. That the membership is behind these efforts was manifested by an overwhelming vote of confidence given to the Executive Committee in its actions up to the present time.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

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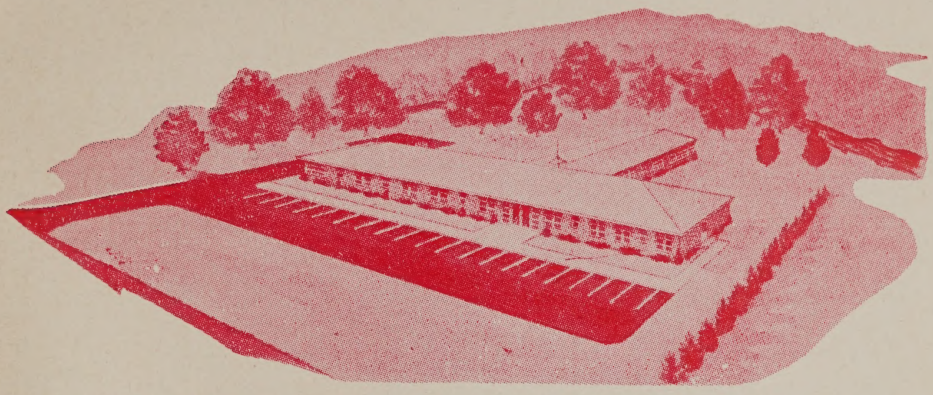

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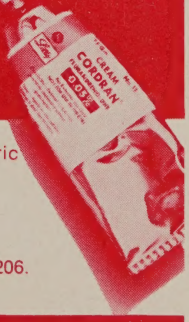

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